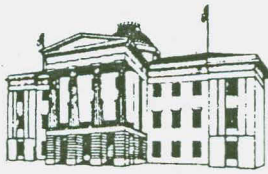


State of North Carolina



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR ALL MONTH

2010

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, many of us take communicating by telephone for granted, an estimated 42 million Americans who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech-impaired require specialized services and adaptive technology in order to be able to use the telephone; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing estimate that more than 1,000,000 North Carolinians, or one in eight people, have hearing loss or speech impairments; and

WHEREAS, effective communication through the telephone enhances the capacity for achieving and maintaining gainful employment, for obtaining needed services and resources, for doing business and for leading independent and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of North Carolina to encourage the full participation of all our citizens with hearing loss and speech impairments in our economy and in the community where they live by fostering functional equivalency in their use of the telecommunications system; and

WHEREAS, we support making telecommunications relay services and adaptive telecommunications equipment available, accessible and affordable for these citizens with hearing loss and speech impairments; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate and necessary to publicize Relay North Carolina, a telecommunications relay service available to *all* North Carolinians at all times by dialing 711, and which connects individuals with hearing loss and speech impairment with anyone by telephone; and

WHEREAS, adaptive telecommunications equipment is available to eligible, low-income North Carolinians through the Equipment Distribution Service of the NC Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the inception of Relay North Carolina, in conjunction with the passage of NCGS 62-157 in 1989 and the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 and the 10th anniversary of the inception of the Equipment Distribution Service;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2010, as “**TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR ALL MONTH**” and call upon our citizens to recognize the positive role telecommunications relay services and adaptive telecommunications technology have in enabling deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and speech-impaired citizens to be fully participatory and productive members of their community.



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-second day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and ten and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.